

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim Amendment Summary

Claims pending

- Before this Amendment: Claims 1, 3-8 and 10-15.
- After this Amendment: Claims 1, 3-8, 10-15 and 24-26.

Non-Elected, Canceled, or Withdrawn claims: None.

Amended claims: Claims 1 and 8.

New claims: Claims 24-26.

Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium having computer-executable modules stored thereon, the modules respectively configuring a computer to perform acts comprising:

a file locator_x configured to locate an executable image on a computer media;

a file-format recognizer_x configured to recognize the file format of the executable image from amongst a database of multiple file format definitions, wherein the database is extensible so that additional file format definitions may be added to the database of multiple file format definitions;

a memory-mapper_x configured to open the executable image from the computer media and read it into a computer memory;

an importer_x configured to find a list of executable image names to load;
an exporter_x configured to build a representation of program modules that
an executable image exports;
a binder_x configured to link multiple executable images together, such
images being those of the list of executable image names.

2. (CANCELED)

3. (ORIGINAL) A medium as recited in claim 1, wherein the
importer is further configured to direct the loading of multiple executable images
of the list of executable image names to load

4. (ORIGINAL) A medium as recited in claim 1, wherein the file-
format recognizer is further configured to select one or more of a group of
available pluggable sub-loaders is capable of loading the recognized file format
of the executable image.

5. (ORIGINAL) A loader comprising a computer-readable medium
as recited in claim 1.

6. (ORIGINAL) An operating system comprising a computer-readable medium as recited in claim 1.

7. (ORIGINAL) A computer comprising a computer-readable medium as recited in claim 1.

8. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable modules stored thereon, the modules respectively configuring a computer to perform acts comprising:

a searcher_x configured to search a computer media for an executable image for loading;

a format_x recognizer configured to recognize the format of the executable image;

a memory-mapper_x configured to load and map the executable image into memory based upon the format of the executable image;

a sub-loader_x configured to examine a data structure of the executable image to determine whether to load additional images;

a database of multiple executable-image formats which is the basis for which the recognizer recognizes the format of executable image and for which the memory-mapper varies how it loads and maps the executable image into memory, wherein the database is extensible so that additional executable-image

formats may be recognized by the recognizer and loaded and mapped by the memory-mapper.

9. (CANCELED)

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A medium as recited in claim 8, wherein one or more modules of the medium are configured to be replaced with a replacement module without recompilation of one or more modules.

11. (ORIGINAL) A medium as recited in claim 8, wherein the memory-mapper is further configured to convert the executable image before mapping it into the memory.

12. (ORIGINAL) A medium as recited in claim 8, wherein the memory-mapper is further configured to decrypt the executable image before mapping it into the memory.

13. (ORIGINAL) A loader comprising a computer-readable medium as recited in claim 8.

14. (ORIGINAL) An operating system comprising a computer-readable medium as recited in claim 8.

15. (ORIGINAL) A computer comprising a computer-readable medium as recited in claim 8.

16-23. (CANCELED)

24. (NEW) A computer implemented_method facilitating loading of one or more executable images of varying formats, the method comprising:

locating an executable image on a computer media;

investigating information related to the executable image, thereby identifying the format of the executable image, wherein:

during the investigating, accessing an extensible database of executable-image formats; and

the investigating accesses a header of the executable image in order to identify the format;

initiating an extensible loader associated with the identified format, the extensible loader being pointed to by an entry;

loading the executable image into a computer memory using the extensible loader, wherein the loading comprises:

calling an entry point located in loaded program libraries in order to load the executable image;

creating a new process based on the entry point;

creating necessary sections within the loaded program libraries for the executable image;

creating an initial thread for the executable image; and

handing over control from the extensible loader to the initial thread in order to execute the executable image.

25. (NEW) A computer-readable storage medium storing instructions that, when executed, configure a computer to perform the method of claim 24.

26. (NEW) A computer comprising a processor configured to perform the method of claim 24.